



Faith in Democracy



Empowering and Serving the People

WHY? The issues that bring us here today

What's your democracy
story?



WHY? The Case for Faith-Based Democracy Advocacy

OVERVIEW

The why, what, and how of faith-based advocacy for democracy

OBJECTIVES

- See why an inclusive and representative democracy is important to people of faith
- Identify key issues and injustices & needed reforms
- Learn advocacy and activism strategies



WHY? The Case for Faith-Based Democracy Advocacy

VALUES

What values bring community together, foster participation and build trust?

LEADERSHIP

From the perspective of your community, tradition, or faith, what are the qualities of a good leader?



WHAT? Issues and Current Legislation

- Freedom to Vote (Empowering the People)
 - Voting Rights
 - Election Administration

- Fair Representation (Serving the People)
 - Campaign Finance
 - Government Ethics

WHAT? Issues and Current Legislation

For the People Act (H.R.1/S.1)

- Voting & Elections: Ensures equal access to the ballot
- Campaign Finance: Reduces influence of big money on politics
- Ethics: Holds government officials accountable to the public

John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act

- Voting & Elections: Restores the protections of the 1965 VRA against discriminatory election laws

WHAT? Freedom to Vote: Empowering the People

As people of faith, we hold shared values of inclusivity, equality, and justice. Protecting the right to vote affirms the dignity of every community member.

- What did you learn about voting growing up?
- Have you ever faced barriers or seen others struggle to vote?
- What would you want to see changed?

WHAT? Freedom to Vote: Empowering the People

BARRIERS & INJUSTICES

- Restrictive voting rules
- Purges of voter roles
- Long lines at polling places
- Antiquated election administration systems
- Disenfranchisement of Americans with prior convictions

WHAT? Freedom to Vote: Empowering the People

The **For the People Act (H.R.1/S.1)** protects the **right to vote** by:

- Making voting options equally accessible across all 50 states
- Removing barriers to voting registration
- Modernizing our election systems and election administration

The John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act would protect against discriminatory rules in the future.

WHAT? Fair Representation: Serving the People

Faith traditions across the world have warned us against the corrupting influence of wealth and power.

- How does your faith, tradition, or community distinguish between the proper and improper use of wealth?
- What are some examples of ethical (or unethical) behavior by leaders?
- What would you want to see changed?

WHAT? Fair Representation: Serving the People

BARRIERS & INJUSTICES

- Expensive, privately funded campaigns exclude candidates from diverse racial, gender, and socioeconomic groups
- Dark money groups and large donors drown out the voices of ordinary Americans in political campaigns
- Gerrymandering allows politicians to lock-in their power
- Wealthy special interests overshadow the public interest
- Weak ethics rules allow elected leaders to abuse power to enrich themselves or their inner-circles

WHAT? Fair Representation: Serving the People

The **For the People Act (H.R.1/S.1)** combats abuse of **money and power in politics** by:

- Limiting and/or disclosing secret spending in elections
- Creating a system for popular candidates and candidates from underrepresented groups to run for office without support from big money donors
- Ensuring that voters pick their politicians through independent and fair districts



WHAT? Fair Representation: Serving the People

The **For the People Act (H.R.1/S.1)** holds government officials accountable for **corruption and conflict of interests** by:

- Requiring presidents and vice presidents to disclose their tax returns
- Ensuring stronger government ethics enforcement
- Slowing the revolving door between government office and lobbying

HOW? Take Action

CALL . . . your senators 1-888-885-1748 to pass S.1

SHARE

- Talk about democracy & why you care with those you are close to

LEARN MORE

- Visit our website for resources: www.faithfuldemocracy.us/resources

AMPLIFY

- Invite and give this workshop to people in your circles



Q&A

REFLECTION

What calls you to take action?

Visit:

www.faithfuldemocracy.us

THANK YOU!

[presenter name]

Faith In Democracy Workshop

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KEY TERMS

- Bill: Legislation used to propose a law
- Sponsor: A member or multiple members (co-sponsors) who introduce a bill
- Amendment: An official or proposed change to the text of a bill
- Hearing: A meeting to develop legislation
- Markup: A meeting where members debate and vote on amendments to a bill
- Filibuster: A tactic used in the Senate to delay a bill from going to a vote
- Gerrymandering: A practice of manipulating boundaries of electoral constituencies to gain an advantage
- Redistricting: The process of drawing electoral district boundaries